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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A method for the topical treatment of ectoparasites, their nymphs, and their eggs, on mammalian skin and hair comprising the steps of:
- A) applying a water soluble or water-dispersible, substantially air-impermeable, pharmacologically acceptable barrier composition containing at least one pesticidally-active monohydric aralkyl alcohol to areas of mammal skin and hair infected with ectoparasites wherein
- a) the composition contains a quantity in the range of from about 1 to about 50% by weight of the at least one monohydric aralkyl alcohol sufficient to provide pesticidal activity against the ectoparasites, their nymphs, and their eggs,
- b) the composition is formulated so that when applied to the ectoparasites, the composition prevents them from obtaining air through their breathing apparatuses,
- c) the composition is applied to the infected areas in a quantity sufficient to completely saturate both the hair and the skin in the infected areas, and
- d) the composition can be readily washed out of the infected areas by rinsing with water, and
- e) the composition is free from any effective pesticidally active compounds other than the at least one pesticidally-active monohydric aralkyl alcohol, and

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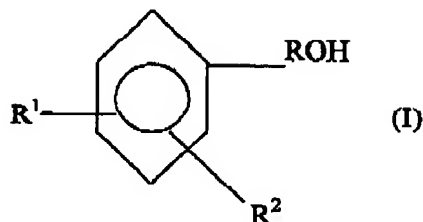
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- B) leaving the composition in contact with the skin and hair in the infected area until at least most of the ectoparasites, nymphs and eggs have been killed; and
- C) removing the composition, ~~and~~ the dead ectoparasites, and dead nymphs ~~and eggs~~ from the skin and hair with water or other aqueous based liquid.
2. (cancelled)
3. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step B) the composition is left in contact with the skin and hair for a period of at least about 2 minutes.
4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the composition is left in contact with the skin and hair for a period of at least about 3 minutes.
5. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the composition is left in contact with the skin and hair for a period of at least about 5 minutes.
6. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the period is from about 2 minutes to about 10 minutes.
7. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the composition is left in contact with the skin and hair for a period of from about 3 minutes to about 9 minutes.

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8. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step A) the at least one monohydric aralkyl alcohol has the formula:



- wherein R is a C₁-C₁₂ straight or branched chain, saturated or olefinically unsaturated alkylene group, and R¹ and R² are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, and C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups.
9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein in formula (I) R is a C₁-C₆ saturated alkylene group.
10. (cancelled)
11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human being.
12. (cancelled)
13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is in the form of a water-containing gel.
14. (cancelled)
15. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the method steps are carried out once, and then again after a time interval.
16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the time interval ranges from about 1 week to about 3 weeks.

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17. (cancelled)
18. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step C) is carried out by rinsing with water.
19. (cancelled)
20. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition in step A) also contains at least one of the following additional components:
 - a film forming agent,
 - a surface active agent,
 - a gelling or thickening agent.
21. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein the composition contains all of said additional components.
22. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition in step A) contains from about 1% to about 20% by weight of the at least one monohydric aralkyl alcohol, based on the weight of the composition.
23. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition in step A) contains from about 2 to about 20% by weight of at least one monohydric aralkyl alcohol.
24. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition in step A) contains from about 2 to about 9% by weight of at least one monohydric aralkyl alcohol.

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25. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition in step A) contains from about 3 to about 7% by weight of at least one monohydric aralkyl alcohol.
26. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition in step A) contains from about 4 to about 6% by weight of at least one monohydric aralkyl alcohol.
27. (cancelled)
28. (cancelled)
29. (cancelled)
30. (cancelled)
31. (cancelled)
32. (cancelled)
33. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step C) is carried out for from about 1 to about 5 minutes.
34. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step C) is carried out for from about 1 to about 3 minutes.
35. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein more than 95% of the ectoparasites are killed.
36. (previously amended) The method of claim 35 wherein more than 99% of the ectoparasites are killed.
37. (cancelled)
38. (cancelled)

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- 39. (cancelled)
- 40. (cancelled)
- 41. (cancelled)
- 42. (cancelled)
- 43. (cancelled)
- 44. (cancelled)
- 45. (new) A method for the topical treatment of lice, their nymphs, and their nits on mammalian skin and hair comprising the steps of:
 - A) applying a water soluble or water-dispersible, substantially air-impermeable pharmacologically acceptable composition containing benzyl alcohol to areas of mammal skin and hair infected with lice wherein
 - a) the composition contains a quantity in the range of from about 1 to about 50% by weight of benzyl alcohol sufficient to provide pesticidal activity against the ectoparasites, their nymphs, and their eggs,
 - b) the composition is formulated so that when applied to the lice, the composition prevents them from obtaining air through their spiracles,
 - c) the composition is applied to the infected areas in a quantity sufficient to completely saturate both the hair and the skin in the infected areas,

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- d) the composition can be readily washed out of the infected areas by rinsing with water,
 - e) the composition is free from any effective pesticidally active compounds other than benzyl alcohol, and
 - B) leaving the composition in contact with the skin and hair in the infected area until at least most of the lice, nymphs, and nits have been killed; and
 - C) removing the composition and the dead lice and nymphs from the skin and hair with water or other aqueous based liquid.
46. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the mammalian skin and hair is human skin and hair.
47. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein in step B) the composition is left in contact with the skin and hair for a period of from about 2 minutes to about 10 minutes.
48. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the method steps are carried out once, and then again after a time interval.
49. (new) The method of claim 48 wherein the time interval ranges from about 1 week to about 3 weeks.
50. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the lice are head lice.
51. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein step C) is carried out by rinsing with water.
52. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the composition is in the form of a water-containing gel.

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53. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the composition in step A) also contains at least one of the following additional components:
- a film forming agent,
 - a surface active agent,
 - a gelling or thickening agent.
54. (new) The method of claim 53 wherein the composition contains all of said additional components.
55. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the composition in step A) contains from about 1% to about 20% by weight of benzyl alcohol, based on the weight of the composition.
56. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the composition in step A) contains from about 2 to about 20% by weight of benzyl alcohol.
57. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the composition in step A) contains from about 2 to about 9% by weight of benzyl alcohol.
58. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the composition in step A) contains from about 3 to about 7% by weight of benzyl alcohol.
59. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the composition in step A) contains from about 4 to about 6% by weight of benzyl alcohol.
60. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein more than 95% of the lice are killed.
61. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein more than 99% of the lice are killed.
62. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein in step B) the composition is left in contact with the skin and hair for a period of at least about 2 minutes; the lice are head lice; and the mammalian skin and hair is that of a human being.

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63. (new) The method of claim 62 wherein the composition in step A) also contains at least one of a film forming agent, a surface active agent, and a gelling or thickening agent.